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THE JERUSALEM POST



In today's Business Supplement. Bracing for the new budget. Interview with CEO of American Express. Is Singapore's economy past its peak? Money logo.

Levy: Government in distress over Oslo Accords

"THIS is a government in distress, and that's the whole truth," Foreign Minister David Levy told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday. He said the problems derived from the Oslo Accords, which had been "forced upon it."

LIAT COLLINS and news agencies "delayed." He complained it was a shame to waste time but Arafat had decided to travel instead of signing. He also complained of Arafat's recent statements, saying that even when Arafat translates "jihad" as a "devotion," the Palestinians understand it to mean "a holy war."

Ross, ending three weeks of talks aimed at concluding a Hebron deal, left yesterday for Washington. Arafat was in Norway, on the first leg of a European tour. He is expected back in Gaza at the end of the week. (Story, Page 2) Meanwhile, Israeli and Palestinian Authority negotiators convened in a Tel Aviv hotel in further pursuit of a deal.

Coalition expected to muster majority for budget vote

THE government still lacked a majority for the 1997 budget last night, but was confident that one would be found before the vote this afternoon. The wheeling and dealing easily upstaged the start of the plenum debate on the budget, which consisted largely of predictable attacks from all sides of the house delivered to an empty hall.



Protesters at last night's rally in Jerusalem demonstrate in favor of Jewish settlement in Hebron. (Brian Hendler)

Thousands show support for Jewish settlement in Hebron

A CROWD Israel Radio estimated at 10,000 people braved the rain and demonstrated last night in downtown Jerusalem in support of the Jewish settlement in Hebron, then marched to the nearby US Consulate, where they called on the US not to pressure Israel into redeploying in the city. Speaker after speaker at the rally took pains to stress that the protest was not against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but rather in support of retaining control in Hebron.

Hebron settlers angered by visit of Abed-Rabbo, Tibi

SETTLERS in Hebron yesterday jostled and demanded the removal of a visiting minister of the Palestinian Authority and an adviser to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, calling them terrorists and recalling the massacre of Jews by Arabs in Hebron in 1929. The visit by Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo and Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi, accompanied by Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe, surprised settlers and sparked a shouting confrontation that lasted until paratroopers were sent in to prevent violence.

Syria is not preparing to attack, says Shara

LIAT COLLINS, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, and news agencies SYRIAN Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said yesterday that Syria is not preparing to attack Israel and accused Israeli leaders of voicing the charge in order to avoid making peace. "Allegations... that Syria is escalating the situation and massing troops to launch a surprise attack are baseless," Shara said.

Yisrael Ba'aliya's main demands are the building of 4,500 hostel apartments for physically and mentally handicapped immigrants, plus some NIS 25 million in stipends for immigrant scientists. The budget contains funds for only 200 hostel units, at a cost of NIS 140m. Meridor has expressed willingness in principle to discuss these demands, but the party says a general promise is insufficient; it wants either a written commitment or a detailed, specific oral promise.

'L'Express': French ex-defense minister was East bloc agent

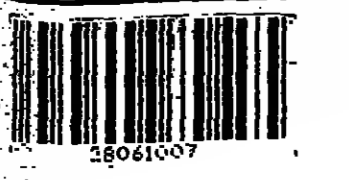
PARIS (Reuters) - A former French defense minister, the late Charles Hernu, was paid as an agent of the Soviet Union and other East bloc countries in the 1950s and 1960s, a French magazine said yesterday. "Charles Hernu was an agent of the East," the weekly L'Express said. Hernu, defense minister from 1981 to 1985 under Socialist president Francois Mitterrand, died in 1990.

Suissa lowers restrictions for obtaining gun license

INTERIOR Minister Eli Suissa yesterday approved loosening the restrictions for obtaining a gun license. Last October, the Interior Ministry had issued new guidelines for granting gun licenses to private citizens. Since then, the ministry has received numerous requests, from groups and individuals, that the new guidelines be modified.

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11-year-old Shoushi laid to rest as alleged assailant remanded

JON IMMANUEL, HERB KEINON and ITM

THOUSANDS attended the funeral yesterday of Hilmi Shoushi, the 11-year-old boy who died after allegedly being beaten by Hadar Betar security officer Nahum Korman in Shoushi's village of Husan on Sunday.

The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday extended Korman's remand for three days. It was revealed in court that bone marrow was taken from Shoushi after his death to be transplanted into his two-year-old sister, who has leukemia.

The police requested that Korman's remand be extended for a week, but Judge David Frankel said that four days is sufficient time for the police to build their case and question two other eyewitnesses.

Police representative Shalom Amar, in asking for Korman to be

held for a week, told the judge that Korman had stopped cooperating with investigators shortly after the incident, making it more difficult.

According to Amar, on Sunday afternoon Korman was driving on the Husan bypass road, when a number of youths began to throw rocks at his car. Korman pursued the youths, and entered Husan.

Amar said that in his initial interrogation, when Korman was cooperating with the police, he said that he had approached one of the youths and began yelling at him. Korman said the child collapsed, and he began to try and resuscitate him, then took him to a nearby settlement and called an ambulance.

Amar said that Shoushi's uncle said that Korman spoke to another Jew at the scene, and said, "I only hit him once and he collapsed."

Korman's attorneys said their client did touch Shoushi, but did not beat him and only yelled at him. Attorney Avraham Gan-Tzvi said that he told Korman not to cooperate with the police.

Shoushi's funeral passed quietly, but afterwards dozens of youths, according to reports, threw stones at military jeeps on the nearby bypass road. Soldiers fired tear gas at the crowd.

Women and men marched separately. Youths carried wreaths and Palestinian flags and shouted, "Our stones are like Kalashnikovs."

But national sentiment was subdued, as the grief transcended national feeling. Shoushi's body was covered by an ornate, red embroidered blanket and not by a Palestinian flag.

Palestinian Authority Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo and Dr. Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, attended the funeral.



Thousands of mourners attend the funeral yesterday in Husan of 11-year-old Hilmi Shoushi, who died from a blow to the neck after being chased by Hadar Betar security chief Nahum Korman.



Nahum Korman, the Hadar Betar security officer suspected of causing the death of 11-year-old Hilmi Shoushi, arrives in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday for a remand hearing. (Brim Heidler)

Edward Ahington, the US Consul-General, is to pay a condolence visit today.

Abed-Rabbo told reporters, "The first thing that has to be done to save the peace process is to disarm the settlers."

Villagers said they were looking to see how Israeli justice would treat the case. "If an Arab had done this to a Jewish child he would go to prison for life and his family's house would be destroyed. But they will say he was crazy and send him to jail for three months," said a masked youth, who said he supports the peace process.

Many of the villagers used to work with Israelis before the closure. Some are Israeli citizens - including Hilmi's father, Sa'er Shoushi - who married Husan women.

"After this, I don't know now if there is a chance we would want to go back and work with them now," one man told Channel 1.

Mubarak accuses Israel of threatening war

SHARM E-SHEIKH (AP) - President Hosni Mubarak criticized Israel yesterday for what he called its saber rattling, saying Israel will not benefit from a new Middle East war.

Mubarak was speaking to reporters after three hours of talks with Jordan's King Hussein in the resort town.

The two leaders also called on Israel to honor its peace commitments, saying that failure to do so could destroy the entire Middle East peace process.

Addressing a joint news conference, they repeated their view that Europe's role in the search for peace in the area could only complement that of the United States, but not replace it.

"I call on the Israeli government not to threaten war from time to time, because this is a deadly business which will damage both parties," Mubarak said in reply to a question on requests by Israeli security chiefs for increased defense spending. "We must forget the word war if we really want peace. It is not in the interest of Israel to continue to threaten war. It is a dangerous three-lettered word which has very grave consequences."

Mubarak did not name Israel's possible foe in a new Middle East war, but he was apparently referring to Syria.

His warning came one day after Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said his country will "take the necessary steps" to counter any Syrian move in the Golan Heights.

"We are experiencing an uncomfortable atmosphere at present and we urge everyone to be careful and to walk the path of peace," said King Hussein.

Turning to Israel's peace talks with the Palestinians, Mubarak said: "Both of us are afraid of the situation remaining unchanged. This could lead to the total destruction of the [peace] process."

Hussein, referring to Israel's repeated assertions that it remained committed to peace, said: "Commitment alone is not enough and is also meaningless except when everything that has been agreed upon is carried out."

Arafat: Economic woes contribute to fanaticism

OSLO (AP) - Yasser Arafat yesterday acknowledged human rights problems in Palestinian areas under his rule, blaming violations on economic woes and his battle against fanatics.

"We have some problems, but we must not forget the tragedy of the economic situation, which leads to these forms of fanaticism, which we must act very hard in all directions against," Arafat said in Oslo.

Complaints of human rights violations committed by the Palestinian self-rule authorities are the one chilly point in otherwise warm relations between Arafat and Norway, Norwegians secretly brokered the historic 1993

Oslo Accords between Israel and the PLO.

During an afternoon news conference, Arafat repeated a claim that Israeli fanatics were working with Palestinian fanatics to disrupt the peace process. The claim, first made earlier this year, has been met with international skepticism.

He also blamed Israel's closure of the borders to Palestinian areas for causing the economic problems that fuel fundamentalism.

"The Palestinians are passing a very crucial economic situation ... that is a very good platform for fanaticism," Arafat said. "We have reached the red line of starvation." Arafat arrived in Oslo on

Monday for a two-day visit, hours after crucial US-led talks stalled on Hebron. The Palestinian leader brushed off US criticism of the trip's timing, saying that talks are continuing at a lower level and that he remains committed to the peace process.

While saying that Hebron is an important issue, Arafat pointed out other key obstacles, such as an agreement on the touchy issue of Jerusalem. He said he sees no reason why the city could not be the capital for both Israelis and Palestinians.

"It would be very difficult to reach peace without a solution on Jerusalem," Arafat said.

Russia's PM says talks must resume on basis of Madrid's land-for-peace

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said in Beirut yesterday that the stalled Arab-Israeli peace talks should resume on the basis of the land-for-peace formula adopted at the 1991 Madrid conference.

"We either stick to the founding principles and agreements in this lengthy process or each government will take new stands and prevent the continuity of the Middle East peace process," he told reporters after talks with Lebanese counterpart Faris Bouez. Primakov arrived in Beirut from

Damascus yesterday on the second leg of a Middle East tour to seek a more active Russian role in the American-dominated Arab-Israeli peace process.

"We are not trying to go against the Americans. We want to complete the existing orchestra," he said.

Asked if he discussed with Syrian President Hafez Assad any specific proposals to advance the peace process, Primakov replied: "I will not reveal at a news conference the new proposals or those that might come up."

Primakov, who signed an economic cooperation protocol between Lebanon and Russia with Bouez, is due to meet with President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri later.

Primakov said at the airport that his country backs the implementation of the 1978 Security Council Resolution 425 calling for an immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

He is to leave Beirut today and visit Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian self-rule areas.

Meretz protests abuse of autistic children in religious program

THE Meretz Party asked the Netanya police and mayor yesterday to cancel a religious spectacle which makes use of an autistic child to persuade people to "return to religion."

The invitations to the women-only show, scheduled for last night in Netanya's Zachor Ledavid Synagogue, promised a "fascinating spectacle" which would "astound" the viewers with its "far-reaching findings." It was to feature one Shulamit Gatt, whose autistic 10-year-old daughter got her to "rediscover religion" by means of "divine signals."

A spokesman for the Elad organization, which put on the show, said it consists of a film made a year ago in which the autistic child tells for-

names. He said the organization's goal is to spread Judaism and it acts according to rabbis' rulings.

Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid called on party activists in Netanya to protest against the show and try to disrupt it in any way within legal boundaries. Na'amat and Alut, an organization which takes care of autistic children, joined the protest, stating that the show consists of abusing helpless minors.

Dr. Yitzhak Kadman, chairman of the Children's Welfare Council, said in the past he had succeeded in canceling a number of similar shows in Holon, Ramat Gan, Rosh Ha'ayin and other places by advising the police and respective mayors that they were illegal.

Diplomat named ambassador to Egypt

ZVI MAZEL was named yesterday to fill the vacant post of ambassador to Egypt.

Mazel, who speaks Arabic and served as a diplomat in Cairo when Israel first established an embassy there in 1980, is currently deputy director-general for African affairs. Previously he served as Israel's ambassador to Romania.

The position of ambassador to Cairo has been vacant for several months. Former envoy David Sultan, who is currently ambassador to Ottawa, was the subject of death threats amid baseless charges in the Egyptian opposition press, which claimed he participated in the killing of Egyptian prisoners of war in 1967. Shortly thereafter, Sultan moved back to Israel and periodically traveled to Egypt.

In another important appointment, Aharon Lopez, an Orthodox Jew and career diplomat, was named last night as Israel's next ambassador to the Holy See.

Lopez, who replaces Shmuel Hadas as Israel's ambassador to the Vatican, is currently Foreign Ministry director for the Pacific region. Israel and the Vatican established diplomatic ties in 1994.

"I view relations with the

Vatican as one of the most important challenges for an Israeli diplomat," Lopez said last night. "Despite all the historical baggage, I see tremendous potential to develop rich and varied relations."

When asked how he felt as an Orthodox Jew to be named to such a post, Lopez declined comment.

Apart from Lopez, there were eight other ambassadorial appointments last night at the Foreign Ministry's senior diplomatic appointments committee meeting.

While none of those chosen yesterday are political appointees, it should be noted that many new plum diplomatic postings were not filled yesterday. Among the ambassadorial positions still expected to be named shortly are: United Nations, UK, Russia, and Turkey. The UN position has been vacant for several months, and political appointees of the last government remain in their posts both in Russia and Turkey.

It is expected that many of these appointments, along with the consul-general position in New York, will be political ones, and will be divided among people close to Prime Minister Binyamin

Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy.

Below is a rundown of other ambassadorial appointments made yesterday:

Amos Nadai, head of the Foreign Ministry's human resources division, was named to Norway; Natan Miron, currently deputy director-general for Eastern European affairs, was named envoy to Switzerland; Yigal Entelbe, department head of the Africa One division, was named to Poland; David Sasson, who just finished his tenure as ambassador to Greece, was named to open up the first Israeli embassy in Yugoslavia since 1967; Alec Millman, head of the Russia desk, was named to Azerbaijan; Yisrael Mai-Ami, currently deputy chief of mission in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, was named to the top slot there; Ori Noi, who just completed his tenure as ambassador to Ethiopia, was named to Chile; and Ya'acov Bracha, who is currently ambassador to Panama, was named to Costa Rica.

Miriam Shomrat, Foreign Ministry head of protocol, was also named last night as consul-

general in Berlin, replacing a political appointee of the Labor government, Ya'acov Wisnonsky.

RESTRICTIONS

(Continued from Page 1)

Cohen criticized the decision, saying it contradicts the recommendations of a government-appointed committee that studied the issue of firearms and the public. He said the committee's findings were that such a decision was liable to increase the use of firearms in an irresponsible manner. Cohen urgently requested that the Interior Committee meet to discuss the issue.

Sinai Campaign marked

VETERANS of the 1956 Sinai Campaign marked the operation's 40th anniversary last night with a festive dinner in Tel Aviv, hosted by The Friends of the Open University.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who was the commander of the paratrooper brigade which jumped at Mitla Pass, said it was a "daring operation."

Arieh O'Sullivan

ATTACK

(Continued from Page 1)

encourage that impression? I have no doubt. Was it done without the knowledge of the Israeli government? I'm not so sure," Levy said.

He said, however, that Israel is trying to find a formula which would enable the resumption of talks with Damascus.

Meanwhile, security sources dismissed reports from Lebanon that Syria had moved Scud missiles toward the Bekaa Valley. "The reports from Beirut are just disinformation," a security source said.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani also said yesterday that he doubts Syria would make any moves that could be interpreted as threatening Israeli civilians, and that it was more likely Syria hoped to extract political concessions from Israel.

"I assume that the Syrians will

not start attacking civilian populations, because they don't want us to do it to them," Kahalani said on Israel Radio.

However, he added that Israel is prepared for any event. "If we have to respond, we will respond," Kahalani said.

The IDF Spokesman declined to comment on the report from Lebanon.

On the Golan Heights yesterday, IDF forces carried out brigade-level maneuvers under the eyes of the Syrians.

The annual Nahal Brigade exercise involving armored personnel carriers and tanks was routine, OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan said.

"The brigade is ready for all kinds of missions," Dayan said. "I am not looking for war and I am not foreseeing any war. We are just training here in order to be ready for any mission."

Dayan said the drill was planned a year ago, and that it is a coincidence the exercise was being held at a time of such tension with Syria.

"We are not planning or looking for war. We are training for routine security operations," Dayan said. "At this stage, it is preferable to tone down things, [but] we are doing what we have to do to be ready."

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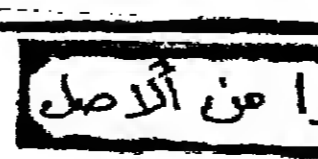
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Mubarak accuses Israel of threatening war

SHARH E-SHEIKH (AP) - President Hosni Mubarak accused Israel yesterday for threatening war against the Middle East.

Mubarak was speaking to reporters after three hours of talks with Jordan's King Hussein in Amman.

The two leaders also called on Israel to honor its peace commitments, saying that failure to do so would destroy the entire East peace process.

Addressing a joint news conference, they repeated their view that the role of the United Nations in the area could not be replaced.

But in the Israeli government, they said, there is a danger that this is a death trap which will damage the peace process.

Mubarak said in response to requests for clarification of his remarks that he was not referring to a dangerous situation, but to a very grave one.

Mubarak did not name Israel as the target of a new Middle East initiative, but he was apparently referring to Syria.

The initiative came one day after Mubarak said his country would not be the only one to be involved in the Syrian initiative.

We are experiencing an atmosphere of peace in the Middle East, he said, but we are afraid that the remaining obstacles will lead to the total collapse of the peace process.

Mubarak said he was referring to the situation in the Middle East, which is a commitment to peace and stability.

He also said that every thing that is done upon is done in the name of peace.

Jordan, Israel discuss transport technicalities

AMMAN (AP) - Jordanian and Israeli transport officials opened talks yesterday on technical and security issues related to the movement of passengers, vehicles, and goods between the countries.

The talks come eight months after the two countries signed a transport cooperation agreement in line with their 1994 peace treaty.

Among other things, the transport agreement allows vehicles from both sides to cross into the other country's territory.

Israeli and Jordanian officials were tight-lipped about the outcome of yesterday's 90-minute meeting. The meeting's agenda, obtained from Jordanian and Israeli officials, showed that both sides sought to discuss technical issues such as vehicle's insurance cost and duration, cargo crossing and handling fees at border points, and removing restrictions on ferry lines.

Transport Ministry deputy director-general Nabum Langental and his Jordanian counterpart, Issa Ayyoub, declined to spell out what the problems were.

"We started to discuss [problems]," Langental said. "We will come to conclusion next week or next month, we decided to take some points ... to subcommittees."

Hundreds of pensioners protest proposed budget implementation

HUNDREDS of pensioners from around the country gathered yesterday in the pouring rain outside the Knesset to call on the government not to adopt a budget that would harm their livelihoods. The protest coincided with the Knesset debate on the new budget.

"Your battle is not a political one, it is a battle for justice. You are the ones we owe a debt to, because it is thanks to you that we are here today. You built the state and created all the infrastructure. It is unacceptable that the state try and harm you," Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz said at the protest, which the pensioners' branch of the Histadrut organized.

Peretz said he had asked Finance Minister Dan Meridor to explain how the pensioners would be able to cover their medical expenses if the budget is implemented as is.

"Now that medications will be more expensive, will the elderly be pressured to use them less? Perhaps the finance minister thinks they will be healthier in the wake of the new law," Peretz said.

Hadash MK Tamar Gozansky,



Gideon Ben-Yisrael (right), head of the Histadrut's pensioners' branch, and hundreds of other pensioners protest opposite the Knesset against proposed budget cuts, which the Knesset debated yesterday. The placard calls on the prime minister to 'keep your promises.'

(Sari Uziel)

Labor MK Ephraim Sneh, Meretz MK Anat Maor, Likud MK Naomi Blumenthal, Labor MK Shlomo Ben-Ami, and other politicians joined the protesters. Gozansky warned MKs that in the next election the public would remember how they voted on the budget.

(Ilim)

Health Ministry transfers NIS 2m. to struggling MDA

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry recently transferred NIS 2 million to Magen David Adom, which has a NIS 40m. deficit and may be unable to pay workers their October salaries this week.

Ministry associate director-general Dr. Boaz Lev said the sum is the ministry's remaining debt to MDA, and that the first-aid, ambulance, and blood-supply organization is still owed considerable funds by municipalities and the health funds.

MDA management said yesterday that in addition to not having enough money to pay salaries, "dozens" of its ambulances are off the road because it cannot afford repairs and regular maintenance. In addition, there is a shortage of sterile gloves and sheets, MDA said.

The MDA workers' union declared a work dispute on Monday.

Lev said that the ministry supports MDA's demand to become a recognized emergency organization, like the Fire Service, whose budget is provided on an on-going basis by the Treasury, but without employees being state workers.

MDA underwent a painful recovery program, cutting staff and reducing the number of stations, a few years ago, but according to Lev, this "did not solve the basic funding problems."

Education Ministry adopts new system to select bagrut subjects

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE number of high school matriculation (bagrut) exams will not be increased this year, but the system for choosing which exams will be excluded has been changed, the Education Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

The new system is designed to ensure that Jewish subjects and the humanities would not be deleted from the list of subjects in which the pupils are examined for a period of several years, he said.

To this end, it was decided to form three clusters of subjects: English and mathematics; Bible and civics; and history and Hebrew.

The computer which chooses the subjects in which the pupils will not be examined will be programmed so that an entire cluster cannot disappear from the list. However, the choice will remain random, as in the previous two years.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said that the choice would be made as late as technically possible so that the pupils would continue applying themselves to all subjects till near the end of the academic year. He said that only ministry and pupil representatives would be on hand when the choice is made and that a lawyer would oversee the process.

"There will be no more festivals," he said, referring to the public "lotteries" in which the exams were chosen previously.

The universities have approved the new system, Hammer added.

New BGU facility aims to fill need for telecommunications engineers

JUDY SIEGEL

PELEPHONE and Cellcom have had to hire 100 foreign telecommunications engineers to develop their infrastructure, because of the shortage of Israeli engineering graduates, according to Elisha Yannai, managing director of Motorola-Israel.

At a ceremony marking the dedication of a department for training telecommunications systems engineers at Ben-Gurion University, Yannai said that with the arrival of a third provider of cellular phone service (soon to be selected by public tender), the shortage of specialists will be even more severe, reaching about 150.

Yannai added that the financial activity of the world's high-tech industries currently totals \$1 trillion a year, and 10% of the gross national product in the world is in the telecommunications field. In Israel, high-tech industry totals \$6 billion in activity, expected to multiply

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Hepatitis A serum available soon

JUDY SIEGEL

A SHIPMENT of 20,000 units of immune gamma globulin serum for preventing hepatitis A in those exposed to the virus has arrived. Promedico, the importer of the passive vaccine, said yesterday the vials will be released to hospitals, health funds, and private pharmacies immediately after they are registered and released by the Health Ministry.

Gamma globulin protects against hepatitis A, a common infection spread by direct contact or by fecal-infected food or water. It occurs most often in kindergartens and day-care centers, as well as in large families living under crowded conditions. Symptoms — including weakness and the yellowing of the skin — are unpleasant, but the disease is usually followed by a complete recovery in people not suffering from chronic illnesses.

There is a worldwide shortage of immune gamma globulin, due to the fact that it is produced from blood plasma. Because of concern that blood products could spread AIDS and hepatitis B, gamma globulin must be produced under the strictest control and supervision, and this slows production. Most countries that produce it divert supplies to their own citizens first and export the rest only when available. Promedico said it made a "special effort" to obtain the 20,000 units, which are enough to cover local needs for six months.

An active vaccination against hepatitis A is also available. More expensive but easier to obtain than immune gamma globulin, its main benefit is that it offers life-long protection from the disease.

Internet company delivers E-mail to Western Wall

WANT to E-mail God? An Israeli Internet company will place your cyberspace message in the Western Wall.

"We are getting between 15 and 20 messages a day from all over the world," Avi Moskowitz, president of Virtual Jerusalem, said yesterday. "Once a month, we go out there, take all the prayers we receive and deliver them to the Wall."

Moskowitz, originally from New York, said his company does not read the E-mail, which a computer program prints on to sheets of paper that are stuffed in the Wall's crevices along with hand-written messages left there.

The service is free and available on Virtual Jerusalem's home page at <http://www.virtual.co.il>.

The Religious Affairs Ministry has operated a prayer-faxing service to the Wall for several years.

Moskowitz said his company's site contains the largest collection of Israel and Jewish-related material on the World Wide Web and that it plans to broadcast a live video picture from the Western Wall during Hanukka.

(Reuters)

Missing soldier family sees Arafat deputy

The family of a missing Israeli soldier has seen the deputy commander of the PLO today.

The soldier's father, Yehuda Ben-Rom, said he was relieved to see the deputy commander, Yassir Arafat, after his son had been missing for 11 months.

Ben-Rom said he was relieved to see Arafat, who he said was the only person who had seen his son since he disappeared after the 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

The meeting was coordinated by the Ministry of Defense.

MUSEUM JERUSALEM



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rebel bomber Turkish operations

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satellite to trace refugees

UNICEF officials later said that this figure was given by the Iraqi government but nevertheless was an indication of the crisis... UNICEF officials later said that this figure was given by the Iraqi government but nevertheless was an indication of the crisis...

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Chirac challenges the US role in the Middle East

FRENCH President Jacques Chirac's tour of the Middle East stressed the Gaullist leader's aspirations to playing a superpower role in the region... A deeper study into the nature of his visit also reveals that the real attitude of the Arab countries towards Chirac's position raises doubts about whether Paris can actually join Washington as mediator in the area...



President Jacques Chirac during his Middle East tour, in Jerusalem. (Brian Hendler)

mination for Middle Eastern nations appeared favorable to the Palestinians, but, speaking in general terms, Chirac was not careful enough to limit the principle to the Palestinians, which could raise hopes with the Kurds who are now struggling to achieve the same goal... Chirac's visit to Beirut annoyed Damascus further, when at a meeting with students at the French-Cultural Center, he announced that he favored a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon...

ANALYSIS PINHAS INBARI promoting economic development and reducing violence in the area... Although the donor countries are interested in having their financial support for the Palestinians invested in the economy, the PA prefers to divert it into establishing its military force...



Syrian President Hafez Assad: Flattered by Chirac's visit to Damascus, annoyed by his visit to Beirut. (Reuters file photo)

enable the return of the emigrant Lebanese community back home from their diaspora... In his address to the Palestinian Legislative Council, Chirac only implied French concern about the fundamentalist sentiments, whereas in Amman he was more specific... Challenging the US raises national esteem in France, but in reality, it may turn out to be counter-productive to real European interests.

UN aid agencies alarmed at Iraqi malnutrition

EVELYN LEOPOLD

UN aid agencies expressed alarm on Monday at the lack of food, medicine and clean water in Iraq... Of the \$39.9 million requested in a September appeal, only 4 percent (\$1.6 million) was received... UNICEF officials later said that this figure was given by the Iraqi government but nevertheless was an indication of the crisis...

UN sanctions were imposed in August 1990... The latest delay in implementing the oil-for-food deal came after Iraq insisted on curbing the freedom of movement for UN staff, limiting their numbers and choosing local personnel to work with the UN...



Czech president Vaclav Havel meets in Prague with Princess Tharwat, the wife of the Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan, during her official visit to his country. (Reuters)

Kabul's warzone zoo a going concern

JEREMY WAGSTAFF

THE only visitors to Kabul's shell-shocked zoo, these days are kids with no school to go to and Taliban fighters arriving noisily in commandeered pickups for a break from the front line... Caught in the middle of factional fighting a few years ago, Kabul zoo does not have much left to offer...

an Indian elephant... The male lion became blind after a man, taking revenge for when it mauled a cousin who entered the den on a dare, threw a grenade in his face... The last Afghan deer perished two years ago, either from shrapnel wounds or through theft by a hungry neighbor...

No looking allowed for Sudan's men, women

MOHAMED OSMAN

THE city government in Khartoum has issued a wide-ranging law designed to enforce the separation of men and women in public places... A new "public order law," which was made public this month, requires physical barriers between men and women at such social events as weddings, parties and picnics...

did not want to give up their colorful "tobes," flowing gowns similar to Indian saris... The new law does not enforce wearing the veil, but it ordered women working in restaurants not to wear jewelry or perfume... The adoption of the strict law by the city government in the capital raised the prospect that other Moslem-majority cities would adopt similar laws...

Germans say they found Alexandria's royal quarter

ARCHEOLOGISTS based in Germany said recently they had discovered traces of the royal quarter of the ancient city of Alexandria, where Mark Antony wooed Cleopatra, the last pharaoh of an independent Egypt... They said in a faxed statement that a team led by marine archaeologist Franck Goddio had found the quarter in the eastern harbor of the Egyptian city...

ner of the eastern harbor, close to where the Pharos or lighthouse stood in classical times... The Ptolemies, a dynasty founded by one of his generals, ruled Egypt from the city until the Roman invasion and it remained the capital of the country until the Arab conquest in the seventh century BCE...

Yemen to face population explosion

YEMEN must immediately implement family-planning programs or face a population explosion, the head of the country's Population Council said Saturday... Mohammed Al Haj said Yemen's present population of around 17 million could rise to over 31 million by the year 2012...



Back by popular demand! A GUIDE TO HIKING IN ISRAEL

with 40 selected one-day hikes... This guidebook is geared for those who understand that "seeing Israel with your feet" is the best way to enjoy getting to know the country... Published by The Jerusalem Post. JP Price NIS 39.00

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Help A New Immigrant Get Settled in Israel. Remember When You Were One

הלאה מן האל

1996 The Jerusalem Post
Angry advice
MOSHE ZAK

HOSNI Mubarak's declaration that he won't step down until Israel withdraws from most of the territories is a message too much for Israel. Mubarak was showing the PLO leader by example, how to drag out a Hebron deal. As I do, was Mubarak's implicit message. Come out with a new demand - a sweeping territorial withdrawal - before the present crisis blows over. Mubarak's threat to Israel is not to meet with Netanyahu, but to meet with Netanyahu's government. Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza is a precondition for any negotiations. Peres notwithstanding, the man who manages very well with the Israelis is as far as we are concerned. Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza is a precondition for any negotiations. Peres notwithstanding, the man who manages very well with the Israelis is as far as we are concerned. Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza is a precondition for any negotiations. Peres notwithstanding, the man who manages very well with the Israelis is as far as we are concerned.

High French art in the form of a comic book

THE New Asterix Has Arrived! beaded the daily *Le Parisien*. An unveiled reference to the annual uncocking of Beaujolais wine. It may just be a comic book, but the new adventures of Asterix have hit French bookstores with all the impact of a national cultural event. Kids and adults alike, raised on the adventures of the diminutive Gallic hero and his sidekick Obelix, snapped up copies of *La Galere d'Obelix* ("Obelix's Galley Ship"). Some bookstores sold out. The new 48-page album ended a five-year silence by creator Albert Uderzo, the co-creator who had professed creative burnout. Demand for a comeback was overwhelming in a country where literature and comic books are both considered high art. France even boasts a comic book museum in Angoulême. The Asterix cast of plucky characters are familiar to French children. The sturdy warriors of ancient Gaul, who grin and quip their way through battles with hapless Roman invaders, are the heroes of TV cartoons too. A live-action feature starring Gerard Depardieu is in the works. Recent polls show that Asterix is the best-known character in Europe, beating Mickey Mouse and Belgium's Tintin. The new Asterix, the 30th in a series which began in 1959, is filled with suspense and surprise as the Gallic duo again face adversity in Roman times.

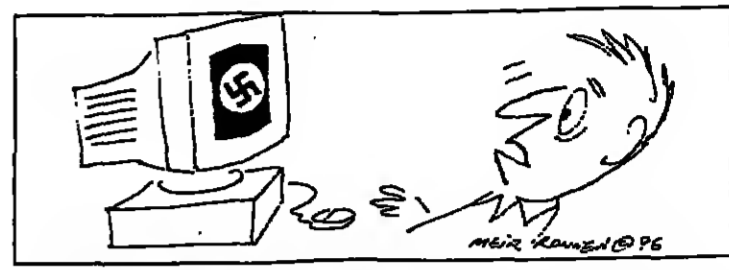


Around the world, some 280 'Asterix' stories under the pen of Rene Goscinny and the paintbrushes of Albert Uderzo have been sold in 77 languages.

that the French can compete by being themselves," respected writer Jean Dutourd told the daily *Le Figaro*. "Asterix is full of wit and very French." (AP)

Antisemites take to the Net

The World Wide Web is being used for world wide hate, Ronda Robinson reports



WELCOME to the Alpha web site. The primary purpose for this site is to provide Aryans world wide with an on-line database of information on issues that concern our people. Everything from general racial issues and religion to survival are covered... "America has been overrun with a non-White invasion, bringing to a spearhead the ever growing White Nationalist movement..." "We at Alpha seek radical change in the present system and the ultimate establishment of a racial homeland for our people."

the spawn of Satan, claims Christian Identity, which some experts now regard as the dominant religiously-oriented group of the extreme right in North America. "Social scientists have had a precious opportunity to observe this Satanic myth grow," Wasserstrom said. "First, observers have been able to watch it evolve in action on the World Wide Web. This new form of research has proved that it can also serve a serious purpose for the history of religions."

WELCOME to the Internet, where a computer rookie can access hate networks in mere seconds. This month at the Hebrew University, scholars from around the world discussed modern antisemitism and how technology such as the World Wide Web abets its perpetuation.

Wasserstrom is among 20 scholars who dissected the faces of 19th- and 20th-century antisemitism at the conference, which was jointly sponsored by the HU and the Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen of Germany.

The conference was titled "Paganism, 'Volk Religion,' and Antisemitism, 19th-20th Centuries." One participant, Dr. Steven Wasserstrom, associate professor of Judaic studies and chair of the religion department at Reed College in Portland, Oregon, spoke of the problem in terms of "Satanic myth." Many hate groups reject the current world, he said, and create negative images of Jews as world enemies - often as monsters or devils. For instance, a new group in North America, known as Christian Identity, says Eve brought to fruition two seeds. She and Adam gave birth to the race of Abel, but she and the serpent created the race of Cain. Modern Jews descend from Cain.

According to Dr. Leon Volovici, of the Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism at the Hebrew University, the intent was to foster joint research between the two universities. Scholars of Jewish and German history, philosophy and literature, as well as organizations devoted to Holocaust memorial, were invited. This is the first time the Vidal Sassoon Center had collaborated with the German university.

Wasserstrom's lecture was on "From Ahimran to ZOG: the Jews as Planetary Antagonist in Archetype and Stereotype." ZOG, an acronym for the Zionist, Occupation Government, was coined in the mid-1980s. "ZOG provided a brilliant rhyme on the apocalyptic Gog and Magog, while simultaneously sounding, to the American ear, like some dumb but nonetheless intimidating kind of lumbering beast," Wasserstrom said. "ZOG is the latest version of an old conspiracy theory in which Jews are

said to run the American government and are blamed for every disaster. It's also evidence of a revival of Nazism and fascism in America and Europe, said Wasserstrom. He calls the myth of "world-monster Jew" a collectively fabricated weapon in a cultural war. "If they can wipe away journalism, Hollywood, the intellectualism they associate with Jews, they can get back to a pure state," he said of the hate groups' mentality. With the approach of the millennium, many groups are stirring up images of the Antichrist, the world leader they believe must be defeated at the end of civilization. They see the Jew as the Antichrist and modern times as the end of history. For Nazis, the Jew was and is the classic version of this ultimate enemy. Wasserstrom said, explaining the timeliness of the anti-semitism conference in Israel. With a few pecks of their fingertips, leaders of Christian Identity and other hate groups are calling for war on ZOG. Wasserstrom found this cry on the Internet recently: "Volksfront is dedicated to the preservation and advancement of Aryan heritage in North America... The Volksfront would like to dedicate our first page to all the soldiers who are sitting within the walls and cages of ZOG. To all who fight for our righteous cause we salute you!" Wasserstrom reports that such propaganda flourishes on the Internet. He sees it as dangerous, but doesn't fear it. "Many people can become far more easily educated in hate propaganda than they ever could before," he admitted. "However, all other points of view also are better represented, so in the end it may be a wash."

Beyond the bowels

PARENTING
RUTH MASON

My three-and-a-half-year-old son has been bladder-trained since age two-and-a-half, and is dry at night about 50 percent of the time. However, he is not yet bowel trained. He refuses a diaper, the potty and the toilet. I have tried everything (commenting, not commenting, rewards and incentives, the "big boy" routine), and I remind him constantly. He tells me he does not need to, and then a few minutes later he hides and does it in his pants. I have never punished him - except for voicing my disapproval. I've tried changing him immediately and leaving him in his mess for hours. Now I have refused to clean him and have told him that if he wants to soil himself he must clean himself. He will be four at the end of the summer, and my husband and I feel that he should be trained by then. Generally, he is a happy child. He goes to nursery school and has never soiled himself there. He has an eight-month-old sibling, but I no longer accept this to be the cause of the problem. Please help us, we are all getting desperate.

Alan Flashman, M.D., child and adult psychiatrist, replies: Your question suggests that you both feel something is amiss, and I agree. Since your son has no accidents in school, and has enough control to hide when he moves his bowels, it is unlikely that there is a physical problem with development.

Now, when bowels are only bowels, small children go right along and actually would just as soon be trained. So let's assume that his bowels have come to assume some additional meanings to your son.

What could these meanings be? You are probably right that a very simple reduction of bowels to jealousy of his eight-month-old sibling would be too simple. I assume that you are right because you are there and have already explored such a line with no convincing results.

However, the sibling came about through a process that small children find enormously interesting, and surrounded by all kinds of misunderstandings. The most common misunderstanding is

Russians settle nicely into US democratic life

FELIX Andreev never dreamed he would vote in a democratic election, let alone for a US president. Most people in the town of Brighton Beach, on the Atlantic shoreline just a few miles from New York city, probably feel the same.

Known as "Little Odessa," this is a small piece of Russia that has taken firm root in the US. Built up by Soviet Jews who first came in the early 1970s, it is now a bustling community of around 60,000 people. The shops sell Russian vodka, sausages, smoked fish and pickles beneath signs in Cyrillic script, while kiosks do a brisk trade in Russian-language newspapers and books.

Close your eyes to shut out the American cars and clothes, listen to people talk in the street or on the boardwalk near the beach and you could be in Moscow. Andreev, a prominent community leader who helps set up local businesses, won US citizenship this year after defecting here on a trip to San Francisco six years ago.

For the first time, he can vote in the US presidential election on November 5. "It is a strange feeling, but I will use my vote. We believe in it, we believe in the American dream. We are natural patriots in this land," he said.

"We feel very proud to vote, this is our country," said Tanya Rosenberg, who works at a travel agency. Andreev, a 59-year-old former journalist, thinks most Russians who have become US citizens would vote for President Bill Clinton, since the Democrats take a more generous line on immigration and social benefits than the Republicans.

But there are others who feel attracted to the Republicans, with memories of their tough line against the Soviet Union during the Cold War, particularly under president Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. Since many are Jews, they are also drawn by what they believe to be the Republicans' strong support for Israel.

"These people endorse the language of might, there are plenty who are very right-wing on foreign policy," said Ilya Levkov, who runs a Russian publishing house in New York. Altogether more than a million people from the former Soviet Union live in the US - Russians, Ukrainians, Georgians, Balts, Armenians.

Brighton Beach is the closest they have to a capital. It lies just a few kilometers from the Statue of Liberty, the symbol of America's status as a land of immigrants. A fashionable resort for New Yorkers in the 19th century, the town was blighted by crime and depression when a few Soviet Jewish families settled there in the 1970s.

The streets are lined with businesses, restaurants and nightclubs. There are Russian radio and television stations and more than 30 Russian-language newspapers. Unemployment and crime rates are low, educational standards high. Some people go back to Russia or other former Soviet republics to visit relatives, if they have the money. But the most popular travel destinations, according to Rosenberg, are Israel and Washington. "People like to travel, because it shows they are free," she said. (Reuter)

SYRIA AND ISRAEL - From War to Peace-making

Moshe Ma'oz examines the history of relations between Israel and Syria throughout the Middle Eastern conflict, demonstrating its crucial importance for the strategic posture of both countries, for the fate of the Palestinian problem, and for the prospects of an overall Middle East peace settlement. Published by Oxford University Press, 1995. Hardcover, 262 pp.

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הלוא מן אלאול

Stocks drop as traders watch peace talks

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



Two-Sided Index Maof Index

STOCKS dropped for a third day as investors focused on the stalled talks on Hebron. The 0.3% cut in interest rates by the Bank of Israel Monday failed to affect stocks significantly. 'We had the interest rates - it was a disappointment - and now that story is finished,' said Ron Weisberg, a trader at Israel Brokerage, and Investments in Tel Aviv. 'We still have the politics, which is under a cloud.'

The Maof Index slipped 0.52 percent to 194.30, while the Misbatim Index lost 0.65% to 184.05. Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 56.3 million of shares traded. Five issues fell for every two that rose. The market was led down by Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, which shed 4%, and Koor Industries, off 1.25%. Teva accounts for nearly 10% of the value of the Maof Index. Nice Systems Ltd., which produces digital voice-recording and archiving systems, sank 9.25%.

Europe shares fall on inflation, US share concerns. LONDON (Reuters) - London stocks finished back below the 4,000 level as and re-awakening fears of domestic interest rate rises left shares to struggle through a jittery session yesterday.

Under pressure from the start after a sharp reversal in US stocks overnight, stronger-than-expected UK money supply figures added to the downward mood, which was further reinforced by another disappointing performance in New York in the afternoon. The FTSE 100 closed at 3,993.5, a fall of 31.8 points but above the day's lows of 3,988.9.

PARIS - French stocks fell 1.15 percent after weakness in the dollar, bond prices and concerns that German interest rates may rise drove the bourse's blue-chip CAC-40 index through important support levels. The CAC-40 index finished down 24.65 points at 1,215.74.

Blue chips stocks boosted by drop in bond rates. NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks closed with strong gains yesterday as new data showing that inflation was still in check sent long-term interest rates to their lowest levels in 2-1/2 months. The Dow Jones industrial average ended 34.29 points higher at 6,007.02.

WALL STREET REPORT. NEW YORK (Reuters) - In the broader market, advancing issues led declines by a small margin on active volume of 444 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange. The Treasury's 30-year bond yield plunged to 6.69 percent - its lowest since August 12 - and compared with 6.84% Monday.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES table with columns for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SFR, PFF and various exchange rates.

BUDGET (Continued from Page 1) Netanyahu at a stormy meeting with faction chairmen last night. 'We cannot find a practical solution for every demand by tomorrow. Nor can we make fools of ourselves (by postponing the vote)... We have two months until the final reading, and things will be cleared up by then.'

When Gesher chairman Maxim Levy retorted that there is no reason to believe anything will change in the next two months, as nothing has changed in the past four, Meridor also lost his temper. Gesher scheduled a meeting with him last week, he noted, and only one MK, Michael Kleiner, bothered to show up. Shas, United Torah Judaism, and the National Religious Party, which had also announced last night that it would support the budget, after the government agreed in principle to its demand for NIS 165 million for settlements in the Jordan Valley and the Golan. Tsomet had announced its support for the budget on Monday.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading tables listing various stocks like Commercial Banks, Industrials, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Insurance, Trade & Services, Property, Building & Agriculture, and Unexplored.

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INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES table listing various international stocks like NEW YORK, LONDON, and other global markets.

Key Representative Rates

Table showing U.S. Dollar, Sterling, and German mark rates with their respective changes.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table showing New York market indices like DJ Industrial, DJ Utility, NYSE Index, etc.

Other stock market indexes

Table showing other stock market indices like FTSE 100, Nikkei, etc.

Israeli stocks in US

Table showing Israeli stocks listed in the US market like AMEX, NASDAQ, etc.

INFLATION MARKETS

Table showing dollar cross rates for various currencies.

Labor rates

Table showing labor rates for different durations.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Table showing foreign financial data for various countries.

US commodities

Table showing US commodity prices for various goods.

London commodities

Table showing London commodity prices.

Spot market metals (US)

Table showing spot market metal prices in the US.

New York metal futures

Table showing New York metal futures prices.

Friday, October 30, 1996

phone dealer: Local business... authorized dealer for... president Oren Most said

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